

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action has stated that Claim 72 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 72 to incorporate all the features of the base claim and intervening claims.

The Office Action has also stated that Claim 81 is allowed.

In order to place all relevant pending claims in allowable format, claims 8, 47, 67-70, and 72 have been amended to depend either directly or indirectly from allowed claims 79 or 81. The support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification and in the claims as originally filed.

Claims 10, 46, 48, 60, 66, 71, and 76-78 have been canceled. Also, withdrawn claims 54-58, 61-65 and 73-75 have been canceled.

After entry of the current amendment, claims 8, 9, 11-14, 47, 49-53, 59, 67-70, 72, and 79-81 will be pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office rejected claims 8-14, 46-53, 59, 60, 66-71, and 76-80 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brenneeman et al. (5,160,341) as modified further in view of Stinson (U.S. Patent No. 6,245,103).

Applicants submit that this rejection has been overcome by either amendment or cancellation of the pending claims.

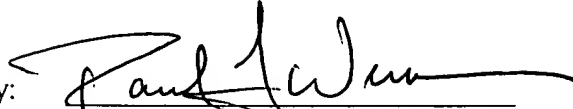
Conclusion

In view of the present amendments, Applicants believe that the all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request notification thereof. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, at the Examiner's convenience, should the Examiner have any questions regarding this communication or the present patent application.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 08 June 05

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul L. Weaver", written over a horizontal line.

Paul L. Weaver, Reg. No. 48,640

Customer Number 33072

Phone: 651-275-9835

Facsimile: 651-351-2954

DCS/#17409